



## News Release

May 16, 2013

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**A Community Approach to Better Health**

*Eau Claire Healthy Communities Council*

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. –Eau Claire Healthy Communities Council is launching into the planning phase of the community health improvement process. This is an exciting opportunity for community members to become involved in collaborative initiatives.

“In order to have an impact on these complex health issues – mental health, chronic disease, and substance misuse– we need many perspectives at the table. When we address issues collectively, we can make a positive difference in our community’s health.” says Darryll Farmer, Healthy Communities Co-Chair.

Community members are invited to attend three upcoming meetings where they will take a deeper look at root causes to determine why mental health, chronic disease and alcohol are a problem in Eau Claire County. These meetings are a follow up to previously held community health improvement events.

- Mental Health: Thursday, May 16th from 6-8pm
  - **Focus: Improve the coordination of mental health care.**
- Chronic Disease: Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> from 6-8pm
  - **Focus: Improve physical activity/nutrition to reduce chronic disease.**
- Alcohol and Other Drugs: Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm
  - **Focus: Change the culture of drinking.**

*All meetings will be held in Room G302 (ground floor) at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department.*

These three groups will continue to meet and plan the next steps to action. If you are interested in joining one or more of the groups, please contact Gina Nielsen, [gina.nielsen@co.eau-claire.wi.us](mailto:gina.nielsen@co.eau-claire.wi.us) or 715-839-2869.

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